

**OTTAWA AREA INTERGROUP of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
General Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 14, 2007**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Traditions were read by Ian P.

**Welcome:** The Chair welcomed all members in attendance.

**Voting Members:** 27      **Non-voting Members:** 7

**Board Members:** John S., Harry B., Mike B., George S., Danny M., Maureen C., Doris M. Absent: Paul B.

**Agenda and Minutes:**

On motion by Mike G., seconded by Jim T., the agenda was accepted as tabled.

On motion by Barb T., seconded by Doug, the General Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2007 were approved.

**Reports:**

**Chair:** John S.

- Banking arrangements have been changed to permit the new executive, in particular the new chair and the new treasurer, to carry on.
- Question: Who has signing authority? Answer: Signing authorities (as set out in Intergroup's by-laws) are the chair, the treasurer, the vice-chair and the secretary. In practice, the chair and the treasurer are the only ones to sign cheques. The vice-chair and the secretary are back-ups.

**Vice-Chair:** Harry B.

- Looking at alternative arrangements for having our financial review carried out in a timelier manner.
- Will be performing a housekeeping review of Intergroup's by-laws to ensure that by-law changes that have been approved by Intergroup reps are included in the current, published version. The review will also note anomalies contained in the by-laws that need to be remedied. As a preliminary to this examination of the by-laws, the secretary has agreed to go through the minutes from 2004 to date and to make a list of all motions in force, including any approved amendments to the by-laws. Anyone with recommendations relevant to this review or who would like to work with the vice-chair in performing this review, please let Harry know.

**Treasurer:** Mike B.

- Drew representatives' attention to the column "Annual Budget 2007" on the statement of receipts and disbursements. The total anticipated receipts/disbursements for 2007 is estimated to be \$63,310. Mike feels confident that these estimates are reasonable.
- Question: why do figures in parentheses on one part of the statement indicate a surplus and in another part indicate a deficit? Could we be consistent? Answer: Mike will look into making the use of parentheses consistent.
- Comment: Note #1 at the bottom of the statement should refer to estimated bank account balance at the end of *January* rather than *July*.

**Literature Coordinator:** George S.

- Monthly inventory was taken on January 27, 2007. The value of our goods in inventory is approximately \$7,187.85.
- After finishing the inventory, an order was placed with New York but it has not yet arrived. This is unusually long. George phoned New York to find out what happened. The order should arrive this Friday (February 16, 2007).
- Question: What about directories of meetings that have been published in the past by New York? Will new directories for 2007 be published soon? Answer: (from Barb T.) The newsletter, *BOX 4-5-9*, that is sent to general service representatives (GSRs) and to district committee members (DCMs) explained that directories will not be printed for 2007. New York is currently reviewing all listings to make sure they're up-to-date.

**Newsletter:** Danny M.

- Pointed out that newsletters for February 2007 are available.
- Here are some items for reps to take back to discuss with their groups:
  1. Should we print birthday announcements before the birthday actually takes place? Currently, the newsletter publishes birthday announcements only after the date of the birthday. Beneath the birthday columns, the newsletter carries the clarification, "Anniversaries are published AFTER the date they are celebrated. If the publishing date is prior to the actual dry date, the notice will be held over for the next month." Would reps please consult their groups to find out if members would like to see birthday announcements printed ahead of the date of the birthday?
  2. Newsletters such as February's that are printed with black ink and one other colour (two-colour production) cost us about 27.5 ¢ each. The advantage of having two-colour production is that the text is much more readable when printed as black ink on white stock. If newsletters are printed in one colour (no separate colour for text; text in the same colour as the masthead as was done last year), the cost would be about 17¢ - 19¢ each. Our charge to the groups of 10¢ each newsletter (\$2 per bundle of 20; \$24 for an annual subscription of 20 copies per month) subsidizes the production costs. The newsletter is in effect free to members, paid for from the general revenues of Intergroup. Are members content with this arrangement? Now that people have had a chance to experience the newsletter printed in two colours, will we continue with two-colour production?
  3. Rather than having past issues of the newsletter being available as .pdf files on our website (this means, viewing the newsletter on the site as if it had been photographed and placed as pictures on the website), do members want Dan to put up the newsletter on the website in HTML format (this means, viewing the newsletter in an easy to scroll through format, being able to see one article at a time)? Danny can do this, however, the disadvantage is that next year's newsletter editor will also need to have the same level of computer skills.
- Question: is it too late to bring in a cheque for a group's annual subscription? Answer: No.

**TAS:** Maureen C.

- We still need women with cars to be on the 12<sup>th</sup> step list. Sobriety requirement is two years.
- Also still need people for the after-hours list.
- Some new volunteers are starting to take shifts answering the phones. They report that it is a positive experience.
- Maureen announced some corrections to the monthly schedule.

**Webmaster: Paul B.**

- In Paul's absence, John explained that we were experiencing some difficulties in shifting our website from our old internet service provider to our new one. John said that he was aware that the on-line meeting list had not been available for a few weeks, but that our current webmaster and Mark E., our previous webmaster, were working with our new internet service provider to make sure that the on-line meeting list will be available as soon as possible.

**Secretary: Doris M.**

- Apologized that the minutes had not been e-mailed to reps until last Monday. She had sent the minutes to the office for printing and distribution to members receiving their minutes by Canada Post but had not sent the minutes to the webmaster for distribution to the e-mail list. Had learned of her mistake only last Sunday, meaning that Paul was able to send out the minutes only on Monday.
- Minutes for February will be sent out using the new list of representatives for 2007. The old list from 2006 will be retired. If reps have not already done so, please fill out the form "Intergroup Representative 2007". This lets us know what groups are represented, who its rep is, and the mailing information of the representative.
- The information on these sheets collected at January's meeting and tonight's meeting will form the basis of the 2007 sign-in sheet that will be put out starting at the next Intergroup meeting.

**Archives Committee:**

- the Spring event: Ian P. circulated envelopes containing tickets to the spring event that will be held Thursday, April 19, 2007 at the Bronson Centre. The event is the presentation of the movie, *My Name is Bill W.*, starring James Wood and James Garner. Tickets are \$10. The evening will also feature the music of Souper Jazz. Note that flyers are also available for reps to take back to their groups. Proceeds of the Spring event support the work of the Archives Committee.
- The Archives Committee will soon be holding elections of officers for the Archives committee. The requirements are that candidates must be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and have four years of sobriety.

**Alkathon:**

Report submitted by Barb T., Chair, Alkathon '06-'07

"First of all I want to extend a very grateful thank you to the members of this years Alkathon Committee for service above and beyond. All of them went that extra mile and often took on even more responsibilities than they were asked to do. Also gratitude for all the volunteers that kept the Alkathon going, the groups and individuals who supplied us with money and food donations without which there would be no Alkathon .

Because of that generosity, we have realized a surplus of funds that the committee voted to be divided. An equal portion will be shared by Intergroup, District 62, District 54, District 58, AlAnon and Area 83. Each of these entities will receive a cheque in the amount of \$566.67.

As most of our members realized, there were some challenges and difficulties at the Christmas event of the Alkathon. We had a large number of less fortunate who came armed with Ziploc bags and grocery bags who were filling up and removing the food from the building. Although we do not begrudge these people from sharing what we have, the food that was left disappeared quickly. This situation was resolved at New Years by having volunteers serve the food rather than it remaining as a buffet style as was done at Christmas.

Another concern that was repeated again this year involved the coats that went missing during the Alkathon as we have those same less fortunate that may be looking for something warmer than what they have. It was suggested that for future Alkathons we institute a type of coat check service with a 7th tradition box for the use of the service.

And last but definitely not least, Randy R. has been elected as the interim chair for Alkathon 2007 - 2008. I am sure he will have plenty of volunteers to help him with that task.

Again thank you for this opportunity to serve in a small capacity as your chair for this years Alkathon. A chair is only as good as its committee and I had one of the best groups of people that made all that possible.

Yours in service

Barbara Topp  
Alkathon 2006 - 2007 Chair"

### **Springathon:**

Ian P., Springathon treasurer:

- The Springathon organizers have set up the bank account and thank "Lunch With Bill" for its contribution of \$100 to help them start organizing.
- They are still looking for participants on the Springathon committee and the first meeting will be Sunday, February 18 at 2 p.m. at the Bronson Centre in the Archive's office.
- John S. noted to Ian that he and Mike, the treasurer, can draw up the cheque for the \$1,500 seed money after this evening's meeting. The seed money had been approved at the last meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- none

**New Business:**

- Dan McD. announced that George M., an active member of the Archives committee, has withdrawn from the committee for health reasons. Barb T. has also withdrawn. Danny M. volunteered to act as one of Intergroup's representatives on the Archives committee.

**McNabb Meetings:**

February 2007	Early Birds
March 2007	Intergroup executive
April 2007	Oasis
May 2007	Saturday Morning Westboro
June 2007	West End Group

Comment about recent McNabb meetings — some Sunday mornings, groups putting on the McNabb meeting have had to purchase their own supplies. The meeting materials (steps, traditions, etc.) have not been available either. John S. agreed to take care of the problem.

**Coffee and Set-up** next month: all

**Clean Up** tonight: all.

**Adjournment:**

On motion by Sue, seconded by Doug, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. closing with the Responsibility Pledge and Lord's Prayer.

**Next Intergroup Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bronson Centre**